

By-Cycle

Bicycle News from the
Maricopa County Department of Transportation



July 2001

Volume 2:7

Sun Valley Parkway Ride

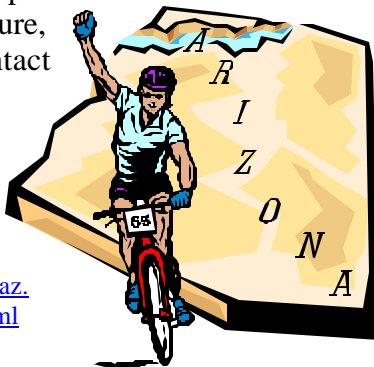
On Friday, June 29, 38 cyclists rode the Sun Valley Parkway with Reed Kempton, the MCDOT Bicycle Planner. Each cyclist was asked to complete a comment form and evaluate the shoulder surface on the parkway. If you missed the ride because you had to work or it was too hot or too early or you have some other lame excuse, don't fret. The evaluation form is available on line on the MCDOT Bicycle Web Page. Simply ride the parkway, fill out the form, and click submit. Your comments will be sent directly to Reed. www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/Bicycle/



Citizens and MCDOT staff discussing the Sun Valley Parkway shoulders.

Vision 21 Meetings

The Governor's Vision 21 Transportation Task Force will be holding public meetings around Arizona during July to take comments on their preliminary recommendations. The meeting schedule and a copy of the Preliminary Task Force Recommendations are available on the ADOT website. If you think bicycling is an important component of Arizona's transportation future, you should contact them this month.



<http://www.dot.state.az.us/vision21/index.html>

Meetings

July 2001

Public Meeting Schedule

The public meeting schedule is subject to change. Please call to confirm dates and times. For on-line information go to:

<http://www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/CgrComm/pubmtg/s/present.htm>

7.10.2001

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Location: MCDOT
2901 West Durango Street
Phoenix, AZ
Reed Kempton: 602-506-1630
Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

7.11.2001

75th Avenue Design Concept Report

Location: Santa Maria Middle School Cafeteria
7250 West Lower Buckeye Road
Phoenix, AZ
Sami Ayoub: 602-506-4662
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Phoenix Removes "Use Sidewalk" Signs

Congratulations to Kristina Fields and the City of Phoenix for removing the "Use Sidewalk" signs from Van Buren and other streets. For years, these signs have recommended to motorists and bicyclists that cyclists should be riding on the sidewalks and staying off the streets. The facility on Van Buren is even identified on the MAG Bike Map as a shared use path. In actuality, what exists on Van Buren is a four-foot sidewalk on the north side of the street that was signed for two-way bicycle traffic.

Removing those signs is a major step forward for bicycling in Phoenix. It eliminates the confusion created when one street features a sign that says "Share the Road" with bicycles and the next street has a sign that says bicycles "Use Sidewalk."



Van Buren Street sidewalk that until recently was signed for two-way bicycle traffic.

Moving Ahead

The American Public Speaks on Roadways and Transportation in Communities

Last year, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) conducted surveys asking the American public about travel and transportation on the nation's roads. *Moving Ahead: The American Public Speaks on Roadways and Transportation in*



These local bicycle racers were seen training for the Tour de France.

Communities was published in March, 2001 and is available at:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reports/movingahead.pdf>

Participants were asked whether their local communities would be better served if various transportation improvements were made.

- 70% said expand existing public transportation
- 69% said build new bikeways and sidewalks**
- 68% said provide better quality traffic information
- 64% said expand existing highways
- 64% said add new public transportation services
- 37% said build more highways

Participants were asked about the most important transportation-related factor in deciding where to live.

- 39% said ease of driving
- 26% said bikeways, paths and sidewalks**
- 23% said availability of good public transportation



PSAs Urge Motorists and Bicyclists to "Share the Road"

Connecticut Transportation Commissioner James F. Sullivan last month announced the distribution of bicycle safety "Share the Road" public service announcements to all television and cable stations in the state. The department will also have 178 spots of the PSAs aired during the coverage of the Tour De France in July on Cox cable in the Hartford, Enfield, and Meriden coverage areas.

More information about this project is available on the AASHTO website at: <http://www.transportation.org/aashto/success.nsf/homepage/overview>

For Roadies Only

A new website concentrates on road riding, the resurgent side of cycling that has been on the back burner in the traditional bike media. It is the product of Ed Pavelka and Fred Matheny, life-long cycling writers and holders of a number of cycling records. Their site and publishing company specialize in expert "how to" advice for road cyclists.

Site visitors are encouraged to cut and paste numerous articles into their club newsletters and websites—free of charge. The website offers free individualized answers to training and technique questions in addition to a free electronic newsletter. <http://www.RoadBikeRider.com>

Enhancement Funds

The National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC) has released a report titled *Summary of Nationwide Spending of Transportation Enhancements Funds*.

This report provides a snapshot of how states have spent their Transportation Enhancements (TE) funds from FY1992 to the end of FY2000.

For information on the TE process and how Arizona ranks with other states visit: <http://www.enhancements.org/>

POLL:

U.S. Drivers Trying to Cut Gas Use

According to a Reuters story carried on the July 5th ENN WorldWire News, "U.S. consumers are reacting to higher gasoline prices with their wallets, according to a new Harris Poll. The poll showed that half of those surveyed are cutting gasoline consumption and also plan to buy more fuel-efficient cars in the future. According to the poll, about half of current car owners surveyed say they cut spending on weekend trips, recreation, and vacations. Some 72 percent said they reduced weekend travel, 71 percent cut recreation spending, and 53 percent reduced vacation spending.

*Have U.S. drivers gone nuts? Are we really willing to give up all the fun stuff so we can drive our gas guzzlers to work? Fewer weekend trips. Less recreation. Shorter vacations. **No way!** Ride a bike to work and **KEEP** your money so you can spend it on the important things in life! -Reed*

Reed Kempton
Bicycle / Multi-Modal Planner
Maricopa County Department of Transportation
2901 W. Durango St.
Phoenix, AZ 85009-6357
602-506-1630
reedkempton@mail.maricopa.gov

